

I am writing to protest the upcoming rule change proposal and the whole air of secrecy surrounding it.

Relaxing the ownership rules on broadcast media and newspapers will accelerate the trend toward concentration of media control. Fewer and fewer companies will own, and control the content of, more and more TV and radio stations and newspapers. The consequences of this are made alarmingly clear by the dearth of reporting on this very issue by the major networks. This is just one incident that illustrates that corporate interests do exercise control of content on their outlets, with chilling effects.

Please do not pass this new proposal. It is antithetical to an informed public, first ammendment rights, anti-trust policies, and democracy itself.

In fact, I believe the exact opposite is what needs to happen. It needs to be easier and cheaper for *individuals or small groups* to be able to start their own "media outlets" that can serve, at least, their immediate area. As has been seen on the Internet, some people will come up with irresponsible media, but a vast majority will come up with responsible (if somewhat banal) media that could be of importance to the local community.

This proposal, I'm sure, is brought forth on behalf of the larger media outlets who are claiming that they can't compete in this world of cable, etc. For the most part, I have to say, "Too bad". Time for these guys to learn how to survive within the market, not ask for government largess and try to say it's for the public good.